

SUN

Biden says \$10 million grant will take Baltimore's port to 'new level'

Vice president says improvements will mean jobs

By Kevin Rector

6:23 PM EDT, September 9, 2013

A new \$10 million federal grant will help the port of Baltimore keep pace in the dynamic global shipping economy, while creating "jobs you can raise a family on, middle-class jobs," Vice President Joe Biden said during a visit to the port on Monday.

Biden praised the city's port for contributing to the nation's ongoing economic recovery.

"This grant is going to help take this historic port to a new level," Biden said.

Biden visited the port's Seagirt Marine Terminal in Dundalk more than a week after the Maryland congressional delegation announced the grant, which will help pay for improving access to that terminal and an expansion of Fairfield Marine Terminal in South Baltimore.

Fairfield is the port's facility that handles its thriving roll-on/roll-off business for vehicles. Baltimore is the nation's No. 1 port for such vehicle imports and exports.

The \$10 million, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, grant, will be matched with \$19 million in state funding.

The money will be used to:

- Deepen the access channel to Seagirt, which would allow the largest containerships to reach the port's most modern container terminal;
- Use dredged materials from the deepening project to fill an obsolete basin at Fairfield, adding 7.6 acres of storage land and allowing the port to handle 20,000 more vehicles a year;
- Expand railroad access at Fairfield by building a new rail loading and unloading facility there.

The multi-part project is one of 52 chosen by the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding. The department received more than 10 times as many proposals for TIGER funding. The state has applied for TIGER funding twice before, unsuccessfully.

Before the vice president's remarks, Maryland Port Administration Director Jim White briefed Biden about the port with Mark Montgomery, president of Ports America Chesapeake, which operates Seagirt as part of a public-private partnership with the state.

White said he was "shocked" by Biden's understanding of the port and the importance of international shipping.

Biden was joined at Seagirt by Gov. Martin O'Malley, Sens. Ben Cardin and Barbara A. Mikulski, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. U.S. Reps. Elijah E.

Cummings, C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger and John Sarbanes, among other state and local officials, also attended.

Biden spoke against a backdrop of Seagirt's towering new cranes unloading containers from a cargo ship. The cranes quickly lifted yellow, red and blue containers full of clothes, electronics and other items off the MSC Vittoria and onto waiting trucks, a long stream of which kept operations flowing.

O'Malley, Mikulski and Cardin each spoke as well, calling the port an economic engine for the state and a powerful sustainer of regional jobs.

Amid his remarks, Biden said his family traces its roots back to Dundalk nearly 100 years ago.

"That's where they used to live," he said — but they wouldn't recognize it today, in part because state officials have for decades been committed to growing and modernizing the port to keep pace with an ever-changing global shipping industry.

"They would marvel at what's happened here," he said of his Dundalk ancestors. "This is an extraordinary facility."

Despite scarce aid for infrastructure, Biden says East Coast ports must expand

By Curtis Tate

McClatchy Washington Bureau

5:05 PM EDT, September 9, 2013

(also covered in Bradenton Herald and Heraldonline.com)

BALTIMORE All of the ports on the East Coast "have to get in the game," Vice President Joe Biden said Monday, and get ready to accept larger cargo ships that will come through an expanded Panama Canal by 2015.

Biden, accompanied by Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and several members of Congress, presented a \$10 million federal grant to the Port of Baltimore to widen its shipping channel and improve rail access.

"More than ever, we are a maritime nation," the vice president said, also flanked by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and the state's Democratic U.S. senators, Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin.

Baltimore and Norfolk, Va., are the only two East Coast ports that are deep enough for the larger, "post-Panamax" ships, and others may have to catch up. "Post-Panamax" refers to ships larger than the current maximum size limits for the Panama Canal.

"Unless we expand ports on the East Coast, we're going to fall behind," Biden said, referencing U.S. rival China, which has spent heavily on infrastructure.

In a time of scarce federal resources, port agencies will shoulder much of the cost. The American Association of Port Authorities projects that the nation's ports will spend \$46 billion on improvements by 2017. That includes deeper and wider channels and harbors, upgraded dockside facilities and improved rail and highway connections.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave America's ports a D-plus in its most recent infrastructure report card, and the society estimates that ports will need \$16 billion more in public investment than will be available by 2020.

The Obama administration has set aside some funding for ports in its Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER program. Of the \$474 million in program funds available this year, about \$100 million went to port and port-related projects, including the \$10 million for Baltimore.

Other recipients include ports in Houston; Pascagoula, Miss.; Wilmington, Del.; and Duluth, Minn. Three Florida ports, at Miami, Bradenton and Jacksonville, received TIGER grants in 2010 and 2011.

Among other East Coast ports, the Port of New York and New Jersey needs to raise a highway bridge to allow larger container ships to pass. To the south, the ports of Charleston, S.C., and Savannah, Ga., are working toward deepening their harbors and channels.

Biden is scheduled to visit the Charleston and Savannah ports on Sept. 16, ahead of a trip to the Panama Canal. However, he said Monday that the Panama trip may be postponed because of the crisis in Syria.

In 2010, marine ports handled 70 percent of U.S. imports, valued at \$944 billion, and 76 percent of U.S. exports, valued at \$469 billion, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. President Barack Obama has set a goal of doubling U.S. exports by the time he leaves office, and port improvements are a critical part of that effort.

"Moving cargo is the lifeblood of our economy," Foxx said.

Continued budgetary uncertainties in Washington hang over the nation's aging infrastructure, with Congress and the White House frequently at odds on how to pay for repairs. The TIGER program was created as part of Obama's 2009 economic stimulus and has continued every year since. The competitive, merit-based grants are popular with mayors and governors across the political spectrum.

The program enjoys support in the Democratic-majority Senate, which has budgeted \$550 million for it next year. However, the Republican-led House of Representatives voted to eliminate the program, as well as other signature White House transportation efforts, including high-speed rail.

Separately, the House was expected this month to consider a bill to authorize an array of water-related projects across the country, including improvements to ports and inland waterways, coastal protection and flood control.

The Senate passed its version of the Water Resources Development Act in May.

MARYLAND DAILY RECORD

Port of Baltimore to widen channel, add cargo capacity, rail access

7:11 am Mon, September 9, 2013

By Kristi Tousignant

Vice President Joe Biden says a \$10 million federal grant for the Port of Baltimore will create middle-class jobs in the state and allow the country to compete as an international shipping hub.

During an announcement Monday, Vice President Joe Biden said that the \$10 million federal grant awarded to the Port of Baltimore could create 5,700 new jobs. (Kristi Tousignant / The Daily Record) The grant money will widen a channel at Seagirt Marine Terminal, increase cargo capacity and add rail access at the Fairfield Marine Terminal. Biden announced the grant Monday at the Seagirt Marine Terminal.

“Look folks, if we are going to make it here in America and continue to make it here in America, we have got to be able to ship it around the world,” he said.

The expansion is expected to create 5,700 new jobs, Biden said. The Port of Baltimore is currently responsible for 50,000 jobs indirectly and 15,000 jobs directly.

“What is so important, what we need to do for the city, for the state, for the community is to create jobs,” said U.S. Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md. “In order to create jobs, you have to create infrastructure.”

The widening of the channel will enable the port to accommodate ships 160 feet wide, Biden said.

“It’s about a super city being ready for these supertankers,” said U.S. Rep. John P. Sarbanes, also a Maryland Democrat.

The dredged material collected from widening the channel will be used to fill a basin near Fairfield Marine Terminal to create a new 7.6-acre staging area to store cargo. Rail access will be added to the Fairfield terminal to more easily accommodate farm and construction machinery.

“The world is changing,” Biden said. “We are now able to carry so much more on cargo ships.”

Work on port improvements is scheduled to begin next summer and the project is expected to take about two years to complete, according to a Maryland Port Administration spokesman.

The grants are part of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program. The U.S. Department of Transportation allocated \$474 million to 52 projects in 37 states in its 2013 TIGER grant program.

“It’s a testament of character and integrity and the grit of Baltimore’s worker that this administration has decided to invest here as a hub for a growing American economy,” said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$29 million. The Maryland Department of Transportation will pay \$19 million toward the improvements.

“We need to be willing to come together and make modern investments,” said Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Biden made the announcement with O’Malley, U.S. Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin — both Maryland Democrats — and other city and state officials.

“We are proud of the men and women of the Port of Baltimore,” Mikulski said. “The tugboat operators, the longshoremen, the crane operators, the truckers all of those who every day in every way are out

there working hard, sweating to get the job done to make sure we send cargo out there and we unload down here.”

The expansion of the port is an effort to accommodate the larger ships that will come from the Panama Canal, which is undergoing its own expansion and is expected to double capacity by 2015.

Biden stressed the importance of investing in infrastructure to bring manufacturing back to the United States and compete with the rest of the world on shipping and exports.

“We can compete,” Biden said. “It’s stamped into our DNA. In order to be able to do that, we have to be able to get our products efficiently around the world.”

Biden’s visit to Baltimore is part of his tour of East Coast ports this summer before he heads to Panama and Mexico next week.

“The Port of Baltimore is going to continue to send ships out over the horizon, but it’s not just Baltimore, the rest of the country has to catch up, the rest of the East Coast has to catch up,” he said. “The opportunities are immense.”

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Joe Biden says \$10 million federal grant will create middle-class jobs at port

Staff, Baltimore Business Journal

September 10, 2013

Vice President Joe Biden came to town Monday to announce a \$10 million federal grant that he said will take the Port of Baltimore to a "new level" and create "middle-class jobs... you can raise a family on," the Baltimore Sun reported.

The \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER grant, will be matched with \$19 million in state funding.

MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Governor O'Malley Joins Vice President Biden to Highlight Investments at Port of Baltimore

Rebuilding our infrastructure creates jobs and allows Maryland to compete in a modern economy

September 10, 2013

Governor O'Malley joined Vice President Joseph Biden at the Port of Baltimore to highlight the \$10 million in federal grants given to Maryland through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), which will improve our infrastructure and strengthen our economy for middle class families. During the event, the two were joined by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, U.S. Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings, and other elected officials.

The TIGER grant program allows for the Port of Baltimore to increase its cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at its Fairfield Marine Terminal.

"With today's announcement, we are rebuilding our infrastructure in order to compete in a modern economy," said Governor O'Malley. "Together, with the Obama Administration and our federal partners, we're moving the Port of Baltimore forward, creating jobs and connecting our State with cities and ports half a world away."

Better choices lead to better results. By partnering with our private sector, together we are creating 5,700 jobs and preparing our port to take on the New Panamax ships that will be headed up the coast in the coming years. What's more, with the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, Maryland is activating long-term strategies to invest in Maryland's transportation systems, and supporting 57,200 jobs with \$4.4 billion in new investments in the next six years.

UPI.COM

Biden calls \$10M grant for Baltimore port commitment to help it grow

Published: Sept. 9, 2013 at 5:48 PM

BALTIMORE, Sept. 9 (UPI) -- Vice President Joe Biden said a \$10 million federal grant for expansion of Baltimore's port will help it keep pace in a dynamic global shipping economy.

"This grant is going to help take this historic port to a new level," Biden said Monday while he was briefed on what was happening at the port and watched cranes unload cargo containers.

Biden said the grant also will help create "jobs you can raise a family on, middle class jobs," The Baltimore Sun reported.

The \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant, matched by \$19 million in state funding, will be used to increase the port's cargo handling capacity, in part, by paying for dredging to expand accessibility for large ships, and by providing rail access to one of its terminals.

With its 50-foot channel and berth, the Port of Baltimore is poised to accept large ships set to begin moving through the Panama Canal, and other ships from the Suez Canal.

The Sun said the port project is one of 52 chosen from more than 10 times as many proposals submitted for TIGER funding. The state twice applied for TIGER funding twice unsuccessfully.

GOVERNING.COM

Biden Touts Infrastructure at Port of Baltimore

BY: Ryan Holeywell | September 9, 2013

Vice President Joe Biden today touted the need for federal investment in infrastructure during a visit to the Port of Baltimore, which was among the winners of the latest round of TIGER grants announced last week.

The feds awarded a \$10 million grant to the Maryland Port Administration in order to make numerous improvements at the port, which has become a leader in exports, including autos.

Maryland will use the funding to increase the cargo-handling capacity at the port's Fairfield Marine Terminal, currently leased to Daimler-Chrysler. The facility, which processes automobiles and light trucks, will also get rail access to help move goods to and from the port more quickly.

The project will cost \$29 million, with the state picking up the portion not covered by the feds. The Port of Baltimore leads the country in imports and exports of automobiles and "roll on/roll off" machinery used in farming and construction.

Biden emphasized how important it is for Baltimore and other ports along the East Coast to deepen their channels and expand their capacity in anticipation of the larger "post-Panamax" ships that they will start receiving, once Panama completes the expansion of its canal this year.

"Our exports are at their highest level ever, and now with the modernization of the Port of Baltimore and other East Coast ports, that number is going to do nothing but grow," Biden said.

He said the Baltimore project would improve efficiency at the port and reduce shipping costs for automakers.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, who also attended the event, echoed Biden's remarks and touted the importance of the TIGER grant program, citing its role in repairing roadways, improving freight facilities, and supporting innovative projects.

For several years, U.S. ports along the East Coast have been busily preparing for the expansion of the Panama Canal, and many have argued that the feds have not done enough in recent years to help.

That may be changing. Earlier this year, the Senate passed legislation that would result in more spending on maintenance of harbors -- long a priority for port advocates -- and the president recently announced procedures designed to permit some federal permitting for infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, the American Association of Port Authorities notes that the proportion of port projects getting TIGER funding is on the rise. Ports got 12 awards totaling \$103.7 million, or 21.9 percent of all TIGER funding this year. The very first round of TIGER funding gave just 7 percent of grant money to ports.

Still, TIGER funding represents just a small portion of total federal transportation dollars, which amount to about \$52.5 billion. As Transportation Issues Daily notes today, "TIGER V barely moves the needle in funding transportation projects."

That's especially troubling, since both the White House and Congress have failed to seriously consider new major sources of transportation revenue despite rhetoric touting the need to invest.

WBFF TV FOX 45

VP Biden Unveils \$10 Million Plan for Port of Baltimore

Updated: Monday, September 9 2013, 07:12 PM EDT

<http://www.foxbaltimore.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/vp-biden-unveils-10-million-plan-port-baltimore-22197.shtml>

Vice President Joe Biden paid a visit to the Port of Baltimore on Monday. He unveiled a \$10 million plan to help increase cargo traffic, to allow much larger ships to go in and out of the port.

Though Baltimore's port has been expanding for years, it has not been expanded underwater and some of the newer, larger container ships may not be able to navigate the shipping channels. Now the millions of dollars in federal grants will help accelerate a project to dredge the harbor. The dredged material will then be used to fill the Fairfield Marine terminal's basin and that will create a new staging area for cargo ships.

The state is also kicking in another \$20 million to complete the project.

Port officials say this massive dredging project will begin next summer and be completed by the year 2016.

WBAL TV CHANNEL 11

Images: Vice President Joe Biden tours Port of Baltimore

UPDATED 4:15 PM EDT Sep 09, 2013

(picked up by Yahoo News)

Images ~

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/politics/images-vice-president-joe-biden-tours-port-of-baltimore/-/9379266/21853450/-/131509pz/-/index.html>

Video ~

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/politics/vice-president-joe-biden-tours-port-of-baltimore/-/9379266/21853180/-/484s9c/-/index.html>

BALTIMORE —Vice President Joe Biden toured the Port of Baltimore on Monday.

Biden to highlight port investments in Baltimore Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to visit the Port of Baltimore on Monday to talk about transportation investments and growing the economy.

His visit coincides with a \$10 million federal grant the state recently received. The money will be used to widen the access channel to the port and make other infrastructure improvements.

Biden held the Port of Baltimore up as an example of how the U.S. can stay competitive in the global marketplace.

The feds see Baltimore as ahead of the curve in preparing for the expansion of the Panama Canal. The project will triple capacity of the canal, sending larger and deeper ships to call on U.S. ports starting in 2015.

As longshoreman unloaded a super-sized Panamax ship behind him, the vice president explained how the federal grant will make the port even more productive.

"This grant is going to help take this historic port to a new level of service for our nation, expanding the Fairfield terminal," Biden said.

A portion of the funds will be used to widen the access channel. The lane is deep enough to accommodate super-sized container vessels, but it needs to be straightened out.

The federal money and \$19 million in state funds will be used for three inter-connected projects.

"We are going to be filling in an old World War II wet basin where they constructed ships during the Second World War. We are going to fill that with dredge material coming from widening the Sea Girt Channel. And the Sea Girt channel allows for the larger container ships to get into the container terminal. Then a third aspect of this project is going to be bringing rail to the Fairfield Marine Terminal, and this will be the first time that we will have rail access to that terminal," Port Deputy Planning Director Jim Dwyer said.

The Obama administration sees moving cargo as the lifeblood of the economy.

"Together, these improvements will increase the efficiency here at the port, will reduce shipping costs for auto exporters and will allow shippers to take advantage of post-Panamax container vessels," U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said.

Biden to highlight port investments in Baltimore Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to visit the Port of Baltimore on Monday to talk about transportation investments and growing the economy.

The port generates more than 14,000 jobs, and 108,000 positions are linked to its activities.

"Here, at this port, we have a tremendous work force, and that is really the heart and soul of what makes the Port of Baltimore function, thrive and actually grow," Gov. Martin O'Malley said.

"It all starts in the Port of Baltimore and the ports around the country. It all starts where we have to get our products, where it has to go," Biden said.

Port officials said if all goes well, they'll begin work on the \$30 million upgrade next spring.

CBS DC

Biden: \$10 Million Federal Grant to Improve Port of Baltimore

September 9, 2013 4:06 PM

(also covered by worldnewsviews.com)

BALTIMORE — A \$10 million federal grant to help improve the Port of Baltimore is just the latest example of federal investments to better enable the nation's manufacturers to get their products around the world, Vice President Joe Biden said Monday.

"Modernizing infrastructure — our ports, our canals, our rails, our roads — does nothing but encourage manufacturers to come back to the United States because it enables them ... to efficiently compete with everyone around the world," Biden said during a visit to the port.

The vice president also said the United States wants to see other nations' economies grow to create bigger and better markets for the U.S. to sell products.

"And we can compete. It's stamped into our DNA, but in order to be able to do that we have to be able to get our products efficiently around the world," Biden said.

Before speaking, Biden met with Mark Montgomery, president of Ports America Chesapeake, and Jim White, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration. The vice president was briefed on the Seagirt Marine Terminal, which handles large container ships. It also can work with the so-called “post-Panamax” ships. They are massive vessels that can traverse an expanded Panama Canal.

The Seagirt terminal recently underwent a major expansion to accommodate the large ships. The expansion began in 2010 with a public-private partnership between the Port of Baltimore and Ports America Chesapeake, a private port operation company.

The expansion at Seagirt makes the Port of Baltimore one of two ports on the East Coast, along with the Port of Virginia in Norfolk, Va., that can currently handle the “post-Panamax” ships. The expanded Panama Canal is scheduled to open in 2015.

The Port of Baltimore has been awarded a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant. It will be used to increase cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at the port’s Fairfield Marine Terminal.

The project will use dredged material from the port’s main access channel to fill a basin and create a new 7.6-acre cargo staging area.

Rail access also will be added to improve the efficiency of handling automobiles and rolling on and off equipment like farm and construction machinery.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$29 million. The Maryland Department of Transportation is paying for the other \$19 million.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said about \$417 million has been awarded to 33 ports in the last several rounds of grants.

“As a result, U.S. exports will be more competitive and that’s a win for American workers and it’s a win for the American economy,” Foxx said. “So projects like these are what we should be doing in this country, and we should be doing much more of it as we go forward.”

Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley also attended the news conference at the port.

O’Malley said the port is a vital employer of the state, and investments like the one announced Monday help sustain and create jobs.

“We understand in Maryland and in Baltimore that in order for a modern economy to create jobs, we need to be able to be willing to come together and make modern investments, investments that we can only make when we act together,” O’Malley said.

WTOP

Vice president talks about infrastructure needs

Monday - 9/9/2013, 8:32pm ET

BALTIMORE (AP) -- Vice President Joe Biden used a visit to Baltimore to talk about the need to invest in infrastructure.

The vice president highlighted a \$10 million grant to the Port of Baltimore during a visit on Monday.

The grant is expected to help improve the port's productivity by widening the channel. It also will increase the port's cargo storage capacity.

Biden said the grant is just the latest example of federal investments to better enable the nation's manufacturers to get their products around the world, Vice President Joe Biden said Monday.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx also attended, along with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

PATCH.COM (Dundalk, North Baltimore, Towson, Timonium, Chevy Chase)

Port of Baltimore Held Up by VP Biden as Model for America

Biden and other officials tout grant to help increase cargo shipped via Baltimore.

Posted by Bryan P. Sears (Editor) , September 09, 2013 at 05:41 PM

(also covered on onenewspage.us)

Vice President Joseph Biden and state officials toured the Port of Baltimore Monday to highlight a \$10 million federal grant that is expected to increase the amount of cargo handled at the facility.

The grant is part of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program. State officials will add another \$19 million.

"With today's announcement, we are rebuilding our infrastructure in order to compete in a modern economy," Gov. Martin O'Malley said in a statement. "Together, with the Obama Administration and our federal partners, we're moving the Port of Baltimore forward, creating jobs and connecting our State with cities and ports half a world away."

The money will allow the port facility to increase the amount of cargo the port can handle. It will also be used to provide rail access at the Fairfield Marine Terminal, which ranks first in shipping automobiles, farm and construction machinery, according to The Washington Post.

"If we make it in America ... we've got to be able to ship it around the world," Biden said, according to the Post report.

During the tour, Biden saw massive Super Post Panamax cranes lifting yellow, red and blue cargo containers full of clothes, electronics and other household goods off the MSC Vittoria and on to waiting trucks, a long stream of which kept operations flowing, according to White House press pool reports.

With its 50-foot channel and berth, the Port of Baltimore is poised to accept large ships set to begin moving through the Panama Canal, and other ships from the Suez Canal.

"This federal investment will increase cargo storage capacity, widen the channel at Seagirt Marine Terminal, and improve rail access," said Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Democrat and House Minority Whip, according to the reports. "The Port of Baltimore, a significant economic engine in our state, is already leading the nation's ports in preparing for the new business that is expected when the expansion of the Panama Canal is completed in 2015, and this additional investment will improve its competitiveness."

WASHINGTON POST

Biden touts \$10 million federal grant to upgrade Port of Baltimore during visit

By John Wagner, Published: September 9

Vice President Biden highlighted a \$10 million federal grant Monday for improvements at the Port of Baltimore as part of a larger push to help modernize the nation's maritime infrastructure.

"All of the East Coast ports, all of them, need to get in the game," Biden (D) said at a late-morning event where he appeared with Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), both U.S. senators from Maryland and three of the state's congressmen. "The rest of the country has to catch up with you."

The \$10 million grant will be used to increase cargo handling and provide rail access at the port's Fairfield Marine Terminal, according to state officials. The Maryland Department of Transportation is providing another \$19 million for the upgrades.

The terminal is used primarily for shipping automobiles and farm and construction machinery — categories for which the Port of Baltimore ranks first among U.S. ports, state officials said.

Biden said he plans several more visits to U.S. ports to highlight how important they are to the rebound of American manufacturing.

"If we make it in America ... we've got to be able to ship it around the world," he said during remarks in which Biden also emphasized the need to modernize U.S. infrastructure.

Biden's event was staged in front of four supersized container cranes that are symbols of a new era at the Port of Baltimore. The 400-foot-tall cranes were purchased by Ports America Chesapeake, which entered into a 50-year public-private partnership to operate the state-owned portion of the Port of Baltimore in early 2010.

At part of the agreement with the state, Ports America constructed a 50-foot berth for the port, which will allow some of the largest container ships in the world to come to Maryland. That development that will take on added significance with an expansion of the Panama Canal scheduled for completion in 2015.

"This translates into jobs," said Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), making a point echoed by other speakers at the event.

Also appearing were Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.), Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), Rep. John Sarbanes (D-Md.).

O'Malley and Biden, who are both weighing 2016 presidential bids, heaped praise on one another as they spoke.

O'Malley called Biden "a tireless advocate for the cause of a stronger middle class."

Biden commended O'Malley's work in Maryland, saying: "You've had a heckuva run, man."

IFCL NEWS MEDIA

NEWTIMES.COM

THE REPUBLIC.COM

GREENWICH TIME.COM

VP Joe Biden boasts of infrastructure investments

BRIAN WITT, Associated Press

Posted on September 10, 2013

BALTIMORE (AP) — A \$10 million federal grant to help improve the Port of Baltimore is just the latest example of federal investments to better enable the nation's manufacturers to get their products around the world, Vice President Joe Biden said Monday.

"Modernizing infrastructure — our ports, our canals, our rails, our roads — does nothing but encourage manufacturers to come back to the United States because it enables them ... to efficiently compete with everyone around the world," Biden said during a visit to the port.

The vice president also said the United States wants to see other nations' economies grow to create bigger and better markets for the U.S. to sell products.

"And we can compete. It's stamped into our DNA, but in order to be able to do that we have to be able to get our products efficiently around the world," Biden said.

Before speaking, Biden met with Mark Monthgomery, president of Ports of America Chesapeake, and Jim White, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration. The vice president was briefed on the Seagirt Marine Terminal, which handles large container ships. It also can work with the so-called "post-Panamax" ships. They are massive vessels that can traverse an expanded Panama Canal.

The Seagirt terminal recently underwent a major expansion to accommodate the large ships. The expansion began in 2010 with a public-private partnership between the Port of Baltimore and Ports America Chesapeake, a private port operation company.

The expansion at Seagirt makes the Port of Baltimore one of two ports on the East Coast, along with the Port of Virginia in Norfolk, Va., that can currently handle the "post-Panamax" ships. The expanded Panama Canal is scheduled to open in 2015.

The Port of Baltimore has been awarded a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant. It will be used to increase cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at the port's Fairfield Marine Terminal.

The project will use dredged material from the port's main access channel to fill a basin and create a new 7.6-acre cargo staging area.

Rail access also will be added to improve the efficiency of handling automobiles and rolling on and off equipment like farm and construction machinery.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$29 million. The Maryland Department of Transportation is paying for the other \$19 million.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said about \$417 million has been awarded to 33 ports in the last several rounds of grants.

“As a result, U.S. exports will be more competitive and that’s a win for American workers and it’s a win for the American economy,” Foxx said. “So projects like these are what we should be doing in this country, and we should be doing much more of it as we go forward.”

Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley also attended the news conference at the port.

O’Malley said the port is a vital employer of the state, and investments like the one announced Monday help sustain and create jobs.

“We understand in Maryland and in Baltimore that in order for a modern economy to create jobs, we need to be able to be willing to come together and make modern investments, investments that we can only make when we act together,” O’Malley said.

DELMARVA PUBLIC RADIO

Vice President to Highlight \$10 Million Grant for Port of Baltimore

September 9, 2013

BALTIMORE (AP) - Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to talk about the need to invest in infrastructure during a visit to Baltimore.

The vice president plans to highlight a \$10 million grant to the Port of Baltimore that will help improve the port's productivity by widening the channel.

It also will increase the port's cargo storage capacity.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is also scheduled to attend, along with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

ROLLCALL.COM

Biden Praises ‘Senator Barb’

By Niels Lesniewski

Posted at 1:01 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2013

When Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. traveled up to the Port of Baltimore Monday, he had effusive praise for the Maryland congressional delegation and especially for the state’s senior senator, even mentioning that he once fetched coffee for Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski.

“When I was in the Senate, I got her coffee, I did whatever she wanted me to do, even though I was much senior to her, but I know where the power lies,” Biden said of the Maryland Democrat.

Biden was among the longest-serving senators in the nation’s history at the time of his departure to be sworn-in as vice president. Mikulski holds the distinction of being the longest-serving woman in the Senate.

“It never affected Barbara. It never crossed even her mind I was senior to her. It never crossed her mind that anyone is senior,” Biden said. “And anybody who thinks being chairman ... having the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in your state is not a good thing, well, they don’t understand anything.”

The earmarks that were the bread-and-butter of old-school Appropriations chairmen are currently out of favor, but there are other ways to assert influence.

As chairwoman of the Appropriations panel, Mikulski is currently in the thick of the debate over to how best keep the federal government’s discretionary programs funded beyond the end of September with a continuing resolution.

Biden was speaking at the Port of Baltimore to announce a \$10 million federal transportation grant to help enhance the operations of the port, which Maryland will match with \$19 million of its own.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

VP Joe Biden announces \$10m grant for Port of Baltimore

By STEVE DOTY | SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AT 1:01 PM

Vice President Joe Biden was joined by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and others in announcing a \$10 million TIGER grant to the Port of Baltimore. The grant was one of 52 grants awarded to 37 states totaling \$474 million.

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/video-vp-joe-biden-announces-10m-grant-to-port-of-baltimore/article/2535449>

LATIN BUSINESS TODAY

Biden calls \$10M grant for Baltimore port commitment to help it grow

09 Sep, 2013

BALTIMORE, Sept. 9 (UPI) — Vice President Joe Biden said a \$10 million federal grant for expansion of Baltimore’s port will help it keep pace in a dynamic global shipping economy.

“This grant is going to help take this historic port to a new level,” Biden said Monday while he was briefed on what was happening at the port and watched cranes unload cargo containers.

Biden said the grant also will help create “jobs you can raise a family on, middle class jobs,” The Baltimore Sun reported.

The \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant, matched by \$19 million in state funding, will be used to increase the port’s cargo handling capacity, in part, by paying for dredging to expand accessibility for large ships, and by providing rail access to one of its terminals.

With its 50-foot channel and berth, the Port of Baltimore is poised to accept large ships set to begin moving through the Panama Canal, and other ships from the Suez Canal.

The Sun said the port project is one of 52 chosen from more than 10 times as many proposals submitted for TIGER funding. The state twice applied for TIGER funding twice unsuccessfully.

POLITICO.COM

Biden visits Baltimore

By KATHRYN A. WOLFE | 09/09/13 9:34 AM EDT

Vice President Joe Biden will take the mic in Baltimore today to highlight the Port of Baltimore's new TIGER grant, which will do double duty: putting the finishing touches on channel work for the enormous supertankers that will soon sail through the Panama Canal, and giving the port more room to store vehicles for its booming auto business. Beyond TIGER, the port visit will allow Biden to highlight a public-private partnership that's enabled the port to ready itself to accept post-Panamax tankers.